

# Sports Review

By P. G. LEE



## The Amazing Dr. Weir

Dr. Reginald Weir when he was a student at De Witt Clinton High School in New York was an excellent tennis prospect. However, due to the ban of eleven of the white tennis associations, he was not encouraged to develop his game. Reggie loved tennis and spent many hours on public courts playing the game he loved so well.

In his senior year he was elected captain of his high school tennis team. Yet he was not encouraged and taught the same way the white players were. There was no underwriting of this young player, by any association or person.

Reggie began to play in the Negro tournaments and won many cups. He gave the game up during the years of his medical training, and proceeded to practice and play as soon as he became a licensed physician. Dr. Louis T. Wright, an outstanding surgeon in New York, took Reggie under his wing, and very soon Reggie was a well-known physician and surgeon.

Well, sports lover, this all leads up to the National Indoor Tennis Tournament being held in New York this week. As you may already know, Reggie entered this tournament last year, and was the first Negro to enter a National Tennis Tournament.

Dr. Weir, gave a good account of himself last year. This year Dr. Weir breezed through his first two matches, and then he met Richard Gonzales of California.

Mr. Gonzales is the twenty-year-old youngster who astounded everyone last year and won the National Outdoor Championship. Gonzales defeated Frankie Parker, Talbert and the best tennis amateur players available last year.

Dr. Weir, my dear reader, is not twenty years old, in fact he has reached the life-begins-at-forty mark if not more.

The tennis-playing medic held match point against the number one seeded player at least twice and almost pulled the upset of upsets. This, in my book, would have been the event of the year. Richard Gonzales was lucky to win this one.

Things or events like this start me speculating all over again. What type of player would Dr. Reginald have been if given the same opportunity as other talented young players? If Dr. Weir in the late stages of his athletic career could give such a tennis player, much great competition, what about other young Negro players?

How many young Negro tennis players will now have an opportunity to compete in the National Outdoor and Indoor Tournaments next year? How many youngsters will receive the help so necessary to develop good players? Will there be a Negro player on the Davis Cup team in the near future.

## New England Has Good Clubs

Hartford, New Haven and Springfield have very good and well-organized tennis clubs. The facilities for playing tennis are excellent in this section. However, there are many budding young tennis stars playing on public courts.

The most outstanding contribution these clubs could make to the sport and also to the race, would be the supervision and proper training of these young players.

Too long have Negro Tennis Tournaments been drinking matches rather than tennis matches.

I recall some of the Negro National Tournaments I witnessed. The star players would party all night and even pass out. The next day on the tennis court, there would be so many rest periods during a match, during which it was very difficult for the scorekeeper to function.

Now, these young players coming on the Davis Cup scene don't just pop up over night. Some local tennis club secures a competent teacher, provides necessary equipment and finally send the young man to a college noted for its tennis team or instructor.

In this way the United States, year after year produces excellent tennis players. Negro tennis clubs in order to compete with this setup must subsidize their young players, if Negro players are to compete with white for places in the nation's ranking and Davis Cup teams.

The local tennis club this year has endeavored to carry out such a program. There are several youngsters here in Hartford, who will or could become outstanding tennis players. I am hoping the New England tennis club will be successful in its program. Which reminds me I must pay up my dues or I will catch h— from the aggressive young sect'y.

# Hartford Hoopsters Chalk Up Top Tally



JUSTINA BENFORD smiles approval at being crowned queen in a popularity contest sponsored by the Tigerettes, high scoring Hartford cage stars and winners of the Hartford City Softball Championship last year. A 16-year-old Weaver High School student, she lives at 67-J Bellevue Sq.

The Hartford Tigerettes, with a sterling record of 20 victories against six defeats, have successfully drawn the curtain on their third year of local basketball competition.

Entered in the New England Tournament, the Tigerettes were pitted against such strong teams as the "Raybestoes" of Bridgeport, the "New London Police Girls" of New London, and the "St. Josephs" of Willimantic.

The high point scorers of the current season have been Irene Perry and Ruth Shorter with the defensive spark being headed by Leonora Gordon and Florence Kiser. Other players who have added to the team's success are Dwyne Lee, Dottie Clark, Bette Benford, Ethel Jones, Eloise Harris, Fay Graves, Rose Seymour, and Evelyn Hartford.

A beautiful trophy was the girls' reward for their winning of the Independent Industrial league with a brilliant record of ten straight victories.

The Tigerettes are managed by Cora Radcliffe and coached by Claude Radcliffe. Lillian Green Justina Benford are scorekeeper and timekeeper respectively.

We all have beefs and peevs which are our pets. "Sound Off" awaits just these from vets.

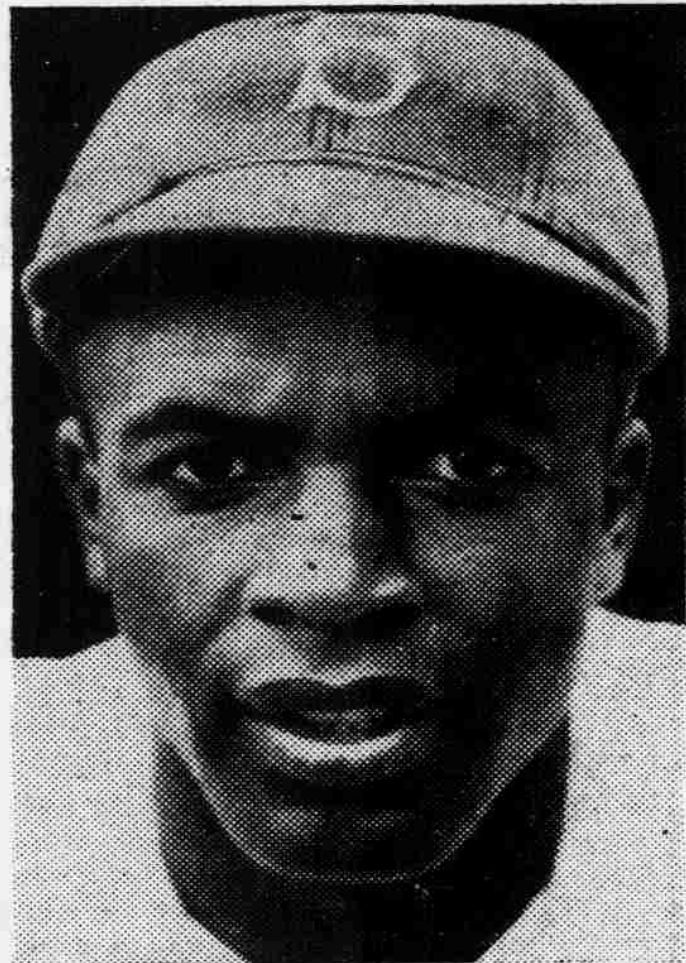
## JACKIE MAKING GOOD ON BOAST

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. —

Thus far, Jackie Robinson's threat to "give 'em hell this season" is fully materializing. Not in a malicious manner, but by making good his prediction that he feels ready to have "the best year of my life."

One particular means by which Jackie intends achieving this is by hitting to all fields. It was in exactly such a manner that Robby banged in four of the five runs that the Brooks made in an exhibition against the Philadelphia Athletics last week.

His first single was a deliberate



JACKIE ROBINSON

attempt to punch the ball into the opposite field. The second hit of Robby's was a rap into center that delivered two more and turned a tie ball game into a 3-1 Brooklyn lead. His last RBI was delivered on a deep fly to left.

"I just seem to see the ball better now than I ever have," was Jackie's way of explaining his solid sendings this spring. "I don't know how long it will last but the ball looks bigger to me."

The Dodgers and all their followers are crossing their fingers in hopes that the ball looks big to Jackie all season.

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## Chicago To Get Charles-Walcott

CHICAGO—The heavyweight go-between Camden's Jersey Joe Walcott and Cincinnati's Ezzard Charles will take place here, it was announced by Joe Louis last week. The former champ spoke for the International Sporting Club of which he is a director.

Plans for Charles and Walcott to contend in a championship try went ahead full steam in spite of the marked opposition of many important influences in the sports world, both here and abroad.

Col. Eddie Egan, chairman of New York State's Athletic Commission, rejected the request that New York recognize it. Jack Solomons, London promoter, who operates with the British Boxing Board of Control, is also "agin it." Solomons, himself, is mapping plans for a title contest in which Bruce Woodcock, British Empire heavy champ, will meet Freddy Mills, world light heavy titleholder, in an elimination bout next June. Lee Savold, of Patterson, New Jersey, would take on the winner.

The Louis-sponsored bout will be held in Soldiers Field, it is believed. The ex-champ states that he has had offers from three cities.

Sam Becker, of Cincinnati, has proffered a guarantee of \$500,000.

Louis' debut as a promoter will come about at Detroit's Olympia Arena April 24 when Willie Pep will be matched with a boxer as yet unknown.

## Hartford Team Seeks Players

A newly-formed baseball team, the Hartford Tigers, will be in operation as one of the fastest semi-pro teams in this area during the ensuing baseball season.

Headed by Claude Radcliffe, president and general manager, the club expects to add some "much needed interest" to the local baseball scene.

The officers of the organization have extended an invitation to all interested persons to call 8-7141 or 46-3450 if they care to try for a position on the team.

## LUCKY GIRL-LUCKY GUY



All Eastern Society was agog with suppressed excitement this week on learning that Levi Jackson, Yale University football captain, would wed New Haven's Virginia Moore Saturday. Engagement of couple was announced Christmas day of 1947. Yale's head football coach and squad members will be among those present. The bride-to-be is employed as a secretary of Yale Institute of Human Relations. Above pix shows couple entering St. Luke's Episcopal Church, New Haven, where they will be married by the Rev. John H. Edwards.

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